

# PRESS RELEASE

## Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Fourteenth District, Michigan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
February 7, 2001

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### **Conyers Calls for Full Disclosure by Civil Rights Division** **Concerning Mississippi Voting Rights Controversy**

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, today called on the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department to disclose all outside contacts between the Division and outsiders to help the Committee determine if improper political influence was being brought to bear on the Mississippi redistricting case. Conyers also announced that he was planning to meet with Ralph Boyd, Jr., the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division on Thursday, February 14 to raise his concerns directly.

Conyers added: "I am very concerned that improper political influence may be brought to bear on this case to benefit the Republican party in the redistricting process. By delaying the Voting Rights review process, the Justice Department has either wittingly or unwittingly permitted Republican federal judges to try to impose a Republican redistricting plan. The causes for the delay are very suspicious, as are reports that the Civil Rights Division recently met with Republican attorneys regarding this matter. If the Justice Department has indeed delayed their review for partisan reasons, this would be a scandal of major proportions. The Department needs to immediately come clean on this matter and comply with my request."

Conyers was joined in the letter by Representatives Frank, Nadler, Scott, Watt, Jackson Lee, Waters, Meehan, Delahunt and Wexler. The text of the letter is as follows:

February 7, 2002

The Honorable Ralph F. Boyd, Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
10<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20034

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Please consider this letter a formal request for the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, and all persons acting under his supervision or in association with him, to produce copies of all meeting logs, telephone and electronic mail logs of Civil Rights Division personnel concerning the Department of Justice's review of the Mississippi congressional redistricting plan. That plan was submitted for Section 5 preclearance by the Mississippi Attorney General on December 26, 2001, and no decision has yet been rendered by the Department of Justice.

These logs have been provided in the past by your predecessors, specifically Wm. Bradford Reynolds, who served as Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division during the Reagan Administration.

Please let me hear from you immediately concerning this request.

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